



Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (PO-27)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2000 **Cost:** \$1.4 million
Project Area: 504 acres **Status:** Completed
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 220 acres July 2001
Project Type: Barrier Island Restoration

Location

The Chandeleur Islands are a barrier island chain located in easternmost St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana. The islands are bounded by the Gulf of Mexico to the north, south, and east, and Chandeleur and Breton Sounds to the west. The 44.7 mile long barrier island chain is located about 70 miles east of New Orleans within the Breton National Wildlife Refuge.

Problems

Breaches in this barrier island chain caused by Hurricane Georges in 1998 makes the island susceptible to increased shoreline erosion. The storm reduced the area of the islands by 40%. In order to prevent further loss of this barrier island chain and retain some of the sediment in the washover channels, revegetation must be undertaken immediately.

Restoration Strategy

The purpose of this project is to provide stabilization to 364 acres of unvegetated washover deposits on 22 overwash fan sites through smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) plantings. These plantings should complement the natural colonization that often occurs on these overwash deposits. Increased percent cover of vegetation on these deposits should allow for the maintenance and accretion of back barrier marshes through sediment trapping.



An example of the planting layout for the Chandeleur Island project is shown above.

Progress to Date

Phase 1 construction of the project was completed in July 2001 and consisted of a total of 80,730 plants installed at 10 overwash sites. A total of 35,100 linear feet of shoreline was planted.

As a result of limited remaining planting areas, both project sponsors have elected to conclude the project at this time.

This project is listed on Priority Project List 9.

For more project information, please contact:



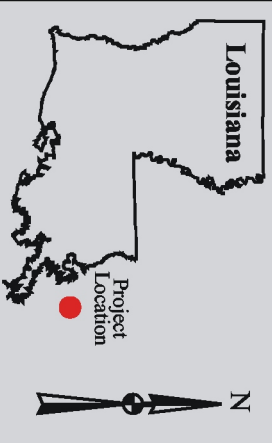
Federal Sponsor:
National Marine Fisheries Service
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 389-0508



Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308

Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (PO-27)

- Vegetative Planting Sites
- Project Boundary



Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
2002 Thematic Mapper Imagery

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Breton Sound

Chandeleur Sound

Gulf of Mexico